



Council on Sex Offender Treatment

MISSION:

The mission of the Council is to enhance public safety by developing and implementing policies for effective interventions and management of sex offenders. The Council is committed to preventing sexual assault through effective treatment, training, and dissemination of information regarding sex offenders.

PHILOSOPHY: Because sex offenses result in significant physical and emotional distress to victims, and because sex offenders are extremely resistant to change sanctions both to punish and control their behavior are essential to protect the public. CSOT believes the public good is served by insuring that sex offenders receive treatment designed to reduce their individual risk of offending.

History of the Council

In 1983, the Council on Sex Offender Treatment (CSOT) was created by the 68th Legislature (Senate Bill 84) under the name of the Interagency Council on Sex Offender Treatment. The Interagency Council was composed of eleven different agency representatives and three clinical experts from the public appointed by the Governor. CSOT was designed to coordinate effective treatment strategies to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. **CSOT** was originally placed under the Texas Department of Corrections.

In 1984, the Council began to assess the State's need for sex offender treatment with the primary focus on juvenile sex offenders.

In 1987, the Council successfully recommended that the Texas Youth Commission establish a treatment facility for juvenile sex offenders and that specialized caseloads be expanded and maintained for sex offenders on supervision.

In 1989, the Council received its first appropriations of \$64,900.00 dollars.

In 1991, during the reorganization of the State's criminal justice agencies, CSOT was placed under the Department of Justice Planning and Assistance; however the enabling legislation was not passed. The first edition of the Registry of Sex Offender Treatment Providers was published.

In 1992, the Council began publishing the TEXAS RESOUCE, a newsletter on sex offender issues.

Thus in the 1992-1993 biennium, CSOT received an independent appropriation and was left in a quasi-agency status.

In 1993, the 73rd Legislature modified this quasi-agency status by reorganizing the Council and granting it more statutory authority. The passage of a title act protected the title of "Sex Offender Treatment Provider" and required Treatment Providers to have criminal background checks. The Council established the Annual Conference on the Treatment and Supervision of Juvenile Sex Offenders.

In 1993, the 73rd Legislature amended the statute to increase the authority of CSOT in regulating sex offender treatment and treatment providers. CSOT is composed of six Gubernatorial Appointees and a twelve member Interagency Advisory Committee.

In 1995, the Council adopted the Standards of Practice for Sex Offender Treatment Providers that delineated the appropriate evaluation and treatment procedures for sex offenders, including a code of ethics for professionals. The Council collaborated with the Texas Association of Polygraph Examiners to develop the Recommended Guidelines for Clinical Polygraph Examinations of Sex Offenders.

In 1997, the 75th Legislature transferred the CSOT to the Texas Department of Health.

In 1999, the Council began implementation of the Civil Commitment Program for the Sexually Violent Offenders (SB365). Texas Senate Bill 365 established the first outpatient civil commitment program in the United States.

In 2003, Senate Bill 1054 gave the Council the responsibility to develop offense specific guidelines for Community Supervision sex offenders. HB 2292 consolidated many State agencies including the Texas Department of Health into Department of State Health Services.

Contact Information

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

(Section 14.005 (a) Subtitle A, Title 3, Occupations Code, Chapter 462, Chapter 110)

- ⊞ To develop and implement policies and treatment strategies for sex offenders
- ⊞ To set standards for treatment providers of sex offenders
- ⊞ To recommend to licensing and regulatory boards current program methods of improving programs to meet the Council's standards
- ⊞ To develop and implement by rule registration requirements and procedures for sex offender treatment providers.
- ⊞ To maintain a registry of qualified sex offender treatment providers
- ⊞ To collect and disseminate information about sex offender treatment to judicial officers, community supervision or parole workers, state and municipal agencies, and public
- ⊞ To distribute money appropriated to the Council by the Legislature to be used for the development, operation, or evaluation of sex offender treatment programs
- ⊞ To advise and assist agencies in coordinating procedures to provide treatment services
- ⊞ To design and conduct continuing education programs for sex offender treatment providers

Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators

(Article 4, Title 11, Health & Safety Code Chapter 841)

- ⊞ To administer Chapter 841
- ⊞ To adopt rules consistent with the purpose of the statute
- ⊞ To develop policies, procedures, and standards of treatment and case management for persons committed under this chapter
- ⊞ To serve on the Multidisciplinary Team which reviews sex offenders in TDCJ-ID who have more than one sexually violent offense for civil commitment and refers potential sexually violent predators for a behavioral abnormality assessment
- ⊞ To provide by contract appropriate treatment, supervision, transportation, residential housing, and drug/alcohol screening for the committed person
- ⊞ To contract with the Department of Public Safety who provides surveillance and monitoring of the Global Positioning Satellite Tracking
- ⊞ To contract with an expert to perform a biennial examination to determine if the behavioral abnormality has changed